

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to have the status and content indicated in the following listing of claims, wherein any cancellation of claims is made *without prejudice*.

12. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a cell culture support comprising a microcarrier bead coated with a gelatine-like protein, the process comprising the step of coating a microcarrier bead with ~~gelatine or~~ a gelatine-like protein, said ~~gelatine or~~ gelatine-like protein having a molecular weight of from about 40 kDa to about 200 kDa, wherein at least 95% of the amino acid residues of the gelatine-like protein consist of Gly-Xaa-Yaa triplets and wherein the gelatine-like protein comprises at least 15% of proline residues and less than 5% of hydroxyproline residues.

13. (original) The process according to claim 12, wherein the microcarrier bead is a non-porous bead.

14. (original) The process according to claim 12, wherein the microcarrier bead is a porous bead.

15. (currently amended) The process according to claim 12, wherein the ~~gelatine or~~ gelatine-like protein has a molecular weight of more than 60 kDa.

16. (currently amended) The process according to claim 12, wherein the ~~gelatine or~~ gelatine-like protein has a molecular weight of less than about 150 kDa.

17. (currently amended) The process according to claim 12, further comprising the step of immobilising immobilizing the ~~gelatine or~~ gelatine-like protein on the microcarrier.

18. (currently amended) The process according to claim 12, wherein more than 75% of the ~~gelatine or~~ gelatine-like protein has the same a uniform molecular weight optionally within 2% of a selected molecular weight.

19. (currently amended) The process according to claim 12, wherein the ~~gelatine or~~

gelatine-like protein is recombinantly produced.

20. (cancelled)

21 (currently amended) The process according to claim 12, wherein the ~~gelatine~~ or gelatine-like protein has a net positive charge at pH 7-7.5.

22 (cancelled)

23. (new) The process according to claim 12 wherein the gelatine-like protein comprises a single polypeptide chain.

24. (new) The process according to claim 12 wherein the gelatine-like protein is essentially free of hydroxyproline residues.

25. (new) The process according to claim 12 wherein the microcarrier beads comprise a material selected from the group consisting of modified dextran, cross-linked cellulose, porous polystyrene, diethylaminoethyl dextran, chemically modified polysaccharides and unmodified polysaccharides and optionally at least 90% of the beads have a size in the range of from 50 µm to 500 µm.

26. (new) The process according to claim 12 wherein the process is employed for producing microcarrier beads coated with the gelatine-like protein in bioreactors optionally with a loading of microcarrier beads in the bioreactor of from about 20 g/l to 40 g/l.

27. (new) The process according to claim 19 wherein the gelatine-like protein comprises a single polypeptide chain and more than 75% of the gelatine-like protein has a uniform molecular weight within 2% of a selected molecular weight, the selected molecular weight being more than 60 kDa and less than about 150 kDa.

28. (new) A cell culture support prepared by the process of claim 12.

29. (new) A cell culture support prepared by the process of claim 27.